Important Dates

- Membership & Award Nominations Due: November 16, 2018. All Nomination information and forms are available at the following link: https://unl.box.com/s/pewmgnaryqdc1pnzbudkyn2e1vzk9a9j
  If the link does not open copy and paste it into your browser
- Annual Initiation & Awards Reception
  3:00 PM January 27, 2019

President’s Message

John Westra, President, Nebraska Chapter
The Honor Society of Agriculture, Gamma Sigma Delta

This year, 2018, is an especially important year at Nebraska as we commemorate the 100th anniversary of establishing the Nebraska Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta. During this centennial celebration of our chapter, we continue serving as The Honor Society of Agriculture at the University of Nebraska. In 1918, our Nebraska Chapter had the distinction of being the first chapter installed under a newly formed organization - The Honor Society of Agriculture, Gamma Sigma Delta, when its two predecessor honor societies merged in 1917. We have honored scholarship, leadership, and engagement in research, teaching, and extension in agriculture at a high level for one hundred years, and counting. And we continue to recognize those scholastic achievements of our upper level undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, staff, and alumni at various events throughout the year.

Over these past 100 years, Gamma Sigma Delta at Nebraska has been honored to count as members some of the most distinguished scholars in the agricultural disciplines, not only in the state, but in the region and the country. In addition to being outstanding scholars in the agricultural fields, Nebraska Gamma Sigma Delta initiates and members have been Nebraska state senators, Nebraska governors, members of the Board of Regents at Nebraska and other universities, secretaries of agriculture (U.S.D.A.), a U.S. trade representative, and a Nobel Prize winner. There are more than a dozen buildings and a few institutes at the University of Nebraska named after our members, as well as buildings at other universities named after Nebraska Gamma Sigma Delta members. We have a proud history of promoting and honoring scholarship in agriculture that was started more than 100 years ago with the Nebraska Chapter.
And in keeping with that tradition, and following in the footsteps of my colleagues at the University of Nebraska, I want to remind all associated with Gamma Sigma Delta that we have a responsibility to develop and strengthen our relationships with our peers across the agricultural and related sciences. We need to foster relationships and mentor our students, both undergraduate and graduate, so that they enjoy all the benefits that our disciplines have to offer them. This is particularly important as our students and young colleagues begin their own journeys in this great and exciting venture of agriculture in which we help in feeding and clothing our family, friends, and neighbors, locally and globally.

So please take time now to identify and personally connect with one colleague, one student, one managerial or professional staff, and one alumnus who you would nominate to become a member of Gamma Sigma Delta. If each of us takes this step to nominate someone in each of these groups, we will strengthen our chapter considerably, and ensure its continued success for the next 100 years. Now is the time also to nominate individuals for the various awards we support through our organization. In that way, we can recognize our award recipients at our upcoming annual banquet. Please know that many of our chapter award winners also go on to become award winners at the international level of Gamma Sigma Delta. So nominate your colleagues and students.

Last, I want to congratulate Gary Brewer, who has agreed to serve as President-Elect for 2019. Congratulations Gary!

Why not remain or become an active member of the Nebraska Chapter? See pages 19-21 for 2018 and Beyond Annual Dues Information. More Active Members equals more opportunities for increasing recognitions of outstanding students and presentations of programs!

Celebrating 100 years of recognizing excellence!

“As a well-respected, time-honored organization, our mission continues to be to recognize excellence and in doing so, Gamma Sigma Delta provides fellowship which, again, is an important aspect not to be overlooked. Recognition of excellence of achievement in agriculture today is just as important as it was 100 years ago, if not more so. Many other groups recognize excellence in agriculture as well, but few have survived the 100-year test as has Gamma Sigma Delta.”

Lowell Moser

Complete text of Dr. Moser’s PERSPECTIVES ON THE HISTORY OF GAMMA SIGMA DELTA NEBRASKA CHAPTER GAMMA SIGMA DELTA CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION MARCH 29, 2018 located at the end of this newsletter.
Welcome New Members

New Nebraska Chapter Members inducted at the Gamma Sigma Delta Initiation and Awards Reception on Sunday, January 28, 2018.

UNDERGRADUATE JUNIORS

Animal Science  Horticulture  Veterinary Science
JNan Wittler  Olivia Fiala  Caitlyn Deal

Agribusiness  Volodymyr Guk
Agricultural Education  Rachel Ibach
Animal Science  Marytza Abebe
Animal Science  Rebekah Lamberson
Animal Science  Kara Valasek
Animal Science  Emma Winters
Biochemistry  Rebecca Anderson

UNDERGRADUATE SENIORS

Horticulture  Amber Weyers
Microbiology  Alyssa Damke
Natural Resource & Environmental Economics  Regan Gilmore
Veterinary Science  Jessica Schmidt

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Animal Science  Taylor Barnes
Animal Science  Katie Bidne
Animal Science  Caitlin Cadaret
Animal Science  Sarah Nafziger
Animal Science  Kelsey Timme
Animal Science  Madeline Zimmerman

FACULTY

Troy Anderson  Entomology
James MacDonald  Animal Science
Gamma Sigma Delta International Scholarship Awards – 2018 is the third consecutive year Nebraska students received the Undergraduate Scholarship and John Riley Service Awards. Nebraska graduate students received the Gamma Sigma Delta International Foundation Graduate Scholarship two of the last 3 years.

Regan Gilmore - 2018 Gamma Sigma Delta International Foundation Undergraduate Scholarship

Regan Gilmore’s undergraduate program combines excellence in the classroom, leadership and study abroad laying a solid foundation to achieve her career goal to earn a PhD in Agricultural Economics and to teach and do research as a university faculty member. Regan’s academic achievements are exemplary. A look a Regan’s transcript reveals an almost equal distribution of A and A+ grades with the only blemish, an A- in Calculus II. Regan’s academic ability is evident as she demonstrates excellence in the classroom while doing numerous career foundation-building activities. A review of the nomination form indicates Regan has engaged in research, served as a teaching assistant and tutor, volunteered and studied abroad. Regan has also used volunteer and study abroad activities to build her professional development. She describes her study abroad experience in San Jose, Costa Rica as follows: “Living in another country and learning the language through natural conversation has given me confidence in my ability to adapt to new situations.” As a volunteer at a summer camp for children with epilepsy Regan indicates, “I learned the importance of patience and empathy.”

Kara Valasek - 2018 Gamma Sigma Delta John Riley Service Scholarship

Kara’s devotion to service has been recognized across the Animal Science Department and the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR). Kara was selected by the faculty to represent the Animal Science Department at the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association Convention. The basis for the selection of these representatives is recognition across the faculty of the student’s academic excellence and leadership qualities. Furthermore, Kara was recognized by CASNR with the Arthur von Bergen Memorial Award. The award is presented in recognition of maintaining a high academic record and being active in worthwhile student activities. It is obvious that Kara’s extra-curricular activities are worthwhile as she has dedicated many hours of her time to serve professionals, youth and peers in a variety of ways.
Kaitlin Chapman - 2018 Gamma Sigma Delta International Foundation Graduate Scholarship

Kait Chapman is a Ph. D. candidate in the UNL Entomology Department, advised by Drs. Tiffany Heng-Moss and Joe Louis. Her research focuses on characterizing expression levels of selected insect resistant genes in tolerant, resistant and susceptible varieties of soybean in response to insect feeding using RNA profiling. Her research aims to decipher the role of selected genes in soybeans expressing different resistance mechanisms. She received her B. S. in Insect Science from UNL in 2014. In addition to her dissertation research, she served as a graduate teaching assistant for ENTO 115 from 2014-2016, and ENTO 409/809 in Spring 2017. She has been very active in a variety of outreach events sponsored by the Entomology Department, as well as service on ASUN Graduate Student Assembly and in the UNL Entomology Bruner Club. Kait has received several honors including IANR’s Widaman Distinguished Graduate Assistantship (2017), Hardin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship (2016) and Milton E. Mohr Fellowship (2015), as well as multiple awards for papers presented at Entomological Society of America meetings. She was also a member of the UNL Linnaean Team (quiz bowl competition) which won 1st place at the 2018 North Central Branch meeting of the ESA and will be representing the region in the 2018 ESA annual meeting in November.
Recipients of
2017 Gamma Sigma Delta Awards

Award of Merit
Recipient: Allen Blezek – Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communication

Allen Blezek receives the Award of Merit for Service from Steve Waller

Award of Merit
Recipient: P. Stephen Baenziger – Agronomy & Horticulture

Stephen Baenziger receives the Award of Merit for Service from Ron Yoder, Associate Vice-Chancellor Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.
Excellence in Research Award
Recipient: Stephen Kachman - Statistics

Stephen Kachman receives the Excellence in Research Award from Archie Clutter, Dean/Director, Agricultural Research Division (ARD).

Excellence in Teaching Award
Recipient: Tom Weissling - Entomology

Tom Weissling receives the Excellence in Teaching Award from Tiffany Heng-Moss, Interim Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR)
Excellence in Extension Award
Recipient: **Matt Spangler – Animal Science**

Matt Spangler receives the Excellence in Extension Award from Chuck Hibberd, Dean Nebraska Extension and Ron Lewis, Animal Science.

**Outstanding Graduate Student – Kait Chapman – Entomology**
**Finalist:**
**Miranda Bright - Child Youth and Family Studies**

Kait Chapman receives the Outstanding Graduate Student Award from Archie Clutter, Dean/Director, ARD (right) and Dr. Joe Louis, Entomology
Outstanding Student Recognition

**Outstanding Undergraduate Senior**
Regan Gilmore – Natural Resources and Environmental Economics

Finalists for Outstanding Undergraduate Senior were:
- Stacy Breesawitz – Applied Science
- Alex Cumming – Agricultural Education
- Natalie Strawhecker & Taylor Uhlir – Nutrition and Health Sciences
- Kara Valasek & Emma Winters – Animal Science

**Outstanding Undergraduate Student**
Jessica Glas – Biochemistry

Finalists for Outstanding Undergraduate Student were:
- Trevin Ball & Jayden Garrett – Nutrition and Health Sciences
- Shannyn Bird – Biochemistry
- Molli Hagge – Agribusiness
- Erika Harms and Amanda Kowalewski – Agricultural Economics
Kara Valsek
Animal Science

Arthur von Bergen Memorial Award Recipient

Arthur von Bergen, alumnus of the University of Nebraska class of 1926, distinguished himself in the University as a leader and a scholar devoted to the field of agriculture and in giving service to his fellow man. “The Arthur Von Bergen Memorial Award is presented in recognition of a graduating senior in the College of Agriculture who has maintained a high academic record and is active in worthwhile student activities.”

Kara Valasek receives the Arthur von Bergen Award from Tiffany Heng-Moss, Interim Dean, CASNR.
In Memoriam

Edwin Penas

Edwin J. Penas January 16, 1935 – December 18, 2017 Associate Professor Emeritus Edwin J. Penas, age 82, died December 18, 2017. Penas was a Nebraska Extension soil specialist for the University of Nebraska–Lincoln until he retired in 1994. An Ord native, Penas spent his entire academic and professional career at Nebraska. In 1957, he received his bachelor’s degree in animal husbandry. After graduation, he was a county extension agent for six years. In 1963 he moved to Lincoln and became an assistant extension agriculturist with the job of encouraging fertilizer use through on-farm demonstrations and associated fertilizer trials. He completed his master’s degree in agronomy in 1967. In 1970, he was promoted to extension soils specialist. He completed his doctorate in agronomy (soil fertility) in 1973, and in 1975, he was promoted to associate professor with tenure. Penas provided leadership to the Extension Managing Nitrates and Groundwater team by developing educational programming for extension educators, field demonstrations, workshops and program material development. In the early 1990s, he led the Nebraska Soybean Profitability Project to determine the most profitable production practices for soybeans and feed grains. Penas was a member of the American Society of Agronomy, Soil Science Society of America, Nebraska Cooperative Extension Association, Epsilon Sigma Phi and Gamma Sigma Delta. In 1987, he was awarded a Superior Service Award from the Federal Extension Service, USDA. He received an Excellence in Programming for the Crop Focus Team from the Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service in 1988. Edwin was inducted into the Nebraska Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta November 23, 1969

Z B Mayo Jr.

Z B Mayo Jr., 74, emeritus professor of entomology, died March 25. Mayo joined the University of Nebraska–Lincoln’s Department of Entomology in 1972. He led the department for 10 years, first in an interim role from 1993 to 1995, then as department head from 1999 to 2005. Mayo also served as interim associate dean and director of the Agricultural Research Division from 1995 until his retirement in 2010. In retirement, he continued to provide part-time support to the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources’ International Agricultural program. Mayo’s research programs at Nebraska focused on the development of bio-intensive pest management programs for field crops. He was a member and held office in several organizations and received numerous awards, including being named National Educational Administrator of the Year by the National Association of Educational Office Professionals in 2008. Mayo served on more than 90 national and regional committees, including more than 40 as chair. He presented papers at more than 50 invited meetings around the world, helped author 95 papers and mentored numerous masters and doctoral students. Mayo received a bachelor’s degree from Texas Tech University and master’s and doctorate degrees from Oklahoma State University. He also served in the U.S. Army Reserve. Mayo is survived by his wife of 47 years, Lois (Zentarski) Mayo; brother, Reginald Mayo of Spur, Texas; sister, Roszella Stephenson of Hemet, California; sisters and brothers-in-law, Jean and Ralph Zimmerman of Aurora, Illinois, Nancy and Larry Fox of Channahon, Illinois, and Mary and Larry Tate of Windsor, Colorado; and numerous nieces and nephews.

https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/obituary-z-b-mayo/

Z B was inducted into GSD on 11-20-1988. He received the GSD Award of Merit from the Nebraska Chapter in 2006 and served as the Nebraska Chapter Historian from 2011-16.
In Memoriam

Richard L. “Dick” Fleming

Richard L. Fleming, 86, of Lincoln, passed away January 17, 2018. He was born February 24, 1931, in Ipswich, Massachusetts, to LeRoy and Lucy (Sturgis) Fleming. Richard received his Bachelors of Science degree from Kansas State University in 1953; master's degree from the University of Nebraska in 1962; and his doctorate from University of Nebraska in 1972.

Richard began his professional career as the assistant extension editor in charge of Press Section; assistant to associate professor, Department of Information, College of Agriculture and Home Economics at the University of Nebraska, 1956-1963. He was the director of University Information at the University of Nebraska, 1973-76, assistant to the chancellor, director of University Information and professor, College of Journalism and Mass Communications, University of Nebraska, 1976-80.

Richard received many awards during his career; listed are just a few, including 24 years of loyal service, United States Government, 1996; Distinguished Service Award, Nebraska FFA Association, National FFA, 2006; Legacy Award for Continuing the Legacy by making a difference with his lifelong passion for education, care and respect for every student and service to alumni, stakeholders and your profession, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Alumni Association, 2007; elected to Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement, 2005; Master Conservationist Award, 2011; Award of Merit, Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute, 2014; Hall of Fame, Nebraska Press Association and the University of Nebraska College of Journalism and Mass Communications, 2015.

His memberships include National Agri-Marketing Association past president of Midlands Chapter and member, national NAMA Board of Directors; charter member, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Alumni Association, University of Nebraska, 2003; past president, member, University of Nebraska Emeriti Association. He was inducted into membership in Gamma Sigma Delta, Nebraska Chapter, as a graduate student in May 1960.

He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Greg and Becky Fleming of Eagle; daughter, Julie Chieffo of Lincoln; grandsons, Ryan, Josh and Michael. Richard was preceded in death by his wife, Connie; his parents and one sister, Freda Manowski.
In Memoriam

Howard Warren Ottoson

Howard Warren Ottoson, 97, of Lincoln, passed away August 5, 2018. Howard was born on a farm near Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, on September 18, 1920, to John and Hilma Ottoson. He obtained his B.S. in agricultural education from the University of Minnesota in 1942. While serving as a lieutenant in the Navy during World War II, Howard married Margaret in 1944. After his service, Howard received his M.S. degrees in agricultural economics from the University of Minnesota and then worked for a bank in St. Paul. Howard was awarded a Ph.D. degree from Iowa State University in 1952. Howard worked for the University of Nebraska in a variety of capacities; professor of agricultural economics, dean of the College of Agriculture, etc., before retiring in 1985 as executive vice president and provost.

Outside of work, Howard had a variety of interests, including gardening, bridge, reading, golf, fishing, carpentry and traveling. Margaret and Howard traveled to Europe in their nineties but were especially fond of enjoying their summers at the “cabin”, a lake home on Pelican Lake in northern Minnesota. He was a thoughtful and loving man.

Survived by his wife; Margaret, children: Keith Ottoson, John (Alta) Ottoson, Dave (Lori) Ottoson, 10 grandchildren: Stephanie Hunter, Scott Ottoson, Lisa Dunbar, Melissa Johnson, Jenna Ottoson, Bryan Ottoson, Kevin Ottoson, Ginger Ottoson Rodriguez, Kate Ottoson and Mark Ottoson and 17 great-grandchildren. Preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Dennis and Kenneth Ottoson and two sisters, Shirley Forthern and Fern Gotta and his daughter-in-law, Jackie Ottoson.

Gary E. Varvel

Gary Varvel, 69, lost his battle with pancreatic cancer on October 8, 2018. He was born May 3, 1949, in Gordon, to Elvera (Rasmussen) and James Varvel. During his younger years on the farm, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, and riding horses. He married Bonnie O’Meara in 1974 in Kearney. Soon after, he received his Ph.D. in agronomy and the couple moved to Crookston, Minn., to work at the UN of Minnesota Experiment Station. In 1983, Gary returned to work at the USDA Agricultural Research Service on East Campus at UNL. During his 39 years in agricultural research, he received a designation of Fellow in the American Society of Agronomy and the Soil Science Society of America. Dr. Varvel was inducted into University of Nebraska Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta November 20, 1988.

After retiring from his job in 2014, Gary could often be seen attending his grandkids soccer games and dance recitals, doing puzzles of all kinds, gardening, playing golf, and traveling. Gary and Bonnie traveled to several places, the favorite ones being Ireland and Italy.

He is survived by wife, Bonnie; daughter, Tricia (Patrick) Miller; daughter, Katie Varvel; grandchildren, Alaina and Nathan; his mother, Elvera Varvel; brothers, George (Trudy) and Bryan (Karen) Varvel, and sister, Shirley Morava. Also surviving him are several sisters and brothers-in-law and over 30 nieces and nephews.
Stephen Baenziger provided an excellent look to the future and the importance of agriculture and related science. He emphasized Gamma Sigma Delta can have a very important role in the future for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources faculty and students.
2018 Annual Meeting
Minutes
March 29, 2018

John Westra called the meeting to order at approximately 4:15 PM. Dennis Brink provided the Secretary/Treasurer report. Minutes of 2017 Annual meeting and Treasurer’s report are included below. No unfinished or new business was conducted.

John Westra and Dennis Brink sought input on the future of Gamma Sigma Delta International. A major theme was that active chapters should be encouraged, supported, and assist other chapters in developing new enthusiasm for the important roles of Gamma Sigma Delta.

Meeting adjourned with the Gamma Sigma Delta Pledge

Treasurer Report - March 29, 2018
Calendar Year Report
Balance January 1, 2018: $3179.57

Income
Dues: $680.00
Initiation Fees: $325.00
Reception: $ 543.00

Total: $1,548.00

Expenses
Reception Catering: $732.70
Frames for certificates: $129.69
Gamma Sigma Delta Initiation Fees and Certificates: $702.50
Scholarships: $1,000.00

Total: $2,564.89

Balance: (3/29/2018): $2162.68

Notes
2017 Annual Meeting (3/30/2017) Balance $2, 077.57
2018 Undergraduate Student Initiation Fees collected in 2017: $375

2017 Annual Meeting
Minutes
March 30, 2017

President Dann Husmann called the meeting to order at approximately 4:15 PM Thursday, March 30, 2017 following the seminar by Dr. Rod Moxley. Dr. Moxley presented a seminar on the USDA-NIFA Shiga Toxin-Producing Escherichia coli Coordinated Agricultural Project: An Update on Major Outcomes and Impacts

Bob Wright moved approval of the minutes from the last annual meeting. Motion seconded by Dana Boden and carried.
Officer & Standing Committee Reports:

President Husmann’s report on the state of the chapter included two major points. First, the office of President-Elect remains open. Furthermore, he encouraged all present to promote active membership in the chapter, especially new faculty joining the departments.

Secretary/Treasurer, Dennis Brink reported the following. A clean audit report for transactions ending with Tamra Jackson was received. Dennis also reported the following financial aspects.

Balance in Report April 8, 2016 = $3,487.68 (with outstanding expenses)

Balance after outstanding expenses paid = $2949.76

Balance December 31, 2016 = $4,189.76 (includes some new initiate fees and payment for banquet.

Current Balance – All Initiation and Awards Banquet Expenses Paid = $2,077.57

Initiation and Awards Banquet Expenses

- Meal expenses (approximately $25.00/person) - income = -$673.49
- Frames, programs and certificates = -243.70
- Scholarships = - $1,000
Total Expenses = $1,917.19

Merlyn Nielsen moved to approve the Treasurer’s report. Motion seconded by Keith Glewen and carried.

Past President Dana Boden showed the new Nebraska Chapter website. She indicated it has not gone live, but will soon. Dana also requested that everyone check their files for the first chapter newsletter distributed in 1989.

Membership Coordinator, Bob Wright, reported 36 new members were initiated and there are currently 86 active members. Bob also encouraged for the financial state of the chapter active membership should be promoted.

New Business

The Executive Committee presented the motion to approve the By-Laws Revisions. Dana Boden discussed the changes initiated by the change in name, Gamma Sigma Delta the Honor Society of Agriculture and related Sciences, by Gamma Sigma Delta International. A friendly amendment to make the title of the document consistent with the body of the document was accepted by consensus. Motion carried.

For the Good of the Order – Future of the Nebraska Chapter & Goals. The following items were discussed.

1. Recruiting active members. Dennis Brink will distribute a list of inactive members to members present at the annual meeting. The members present will encourage inactive members they
know to become an active member for 2017 and beyond. Dann Husmann will write a note describing the benefits of active membership in the chapter.

2. Dann indicated that the chapter’s 100th anniversary is next year. It was suggested that a special celebration be planned and support by IANR administration be sought.

3. Dennis Brink indicated the chapter could nominate an individual for the Gamma Sigma Delta International Distinguished Achievement in Agriculture. Several names were suggested and follow up was encouraged.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM with the Gamma Sigma Delta Pledge:

Gamma Sigma Delta Committees 2018

EXECUTIVE
President: John Westra
President-Elect: Gary Brewer
Secretary/Treasurer: Dennis Brink
Membership Coordinator: Bob Wright
Historian: Dana W.R. Boden
Past-President: Dann Husmann

AWARD OF MERIT
Paul Hay (2018)*
Steve Waller (2018)*
Ron Yoder (2019)
Allen Blezek (2020)
P. Stephen Baenziger (2020)

EXTENSION AWARD
Cheryl Burkhart-Kriesel (2018)*
Robert Wright (2019)
Matt Spangler (2020)

RESEARCH AWARD
Andrea Cupp (2018)
Jeyam Subbiah (2019)
Stephen Kachman (2020)

TEACHING AWARD
Merlyn Nielsen (2018)
Tom Burkey (2019)
Tom Weissling (2020)

AUDIT
TBA

INITIATION AND AWARDS
BANQUET
Dann Husmann*
Dennis Brink
Bob Wright
Dana W.R. Boden

INTERNATIONAL AWARD
FOR DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE
TBA

MEMBERSHIP
Bob Wright (Coordinator)

SCHOLARSHIP
RECOGNITION
Dennis Brink (2018) *

* Chairperson
Gamma Sigma Delta Outstanding Graduate Student Award Fund

Your Nebraska Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta has established a fund at the University of Nebraska Foundation to allow us to expand our recognition of high standards of scholarship to the graduate student ranks. The Gamma Sigma Delta Outstanding Graduate Student Award Fund was initiated with a $750 grant from the international Gamma Sigma Delta organization. The fund is an expendable fund at this time; however, our goal is to raise $25,000 to endow it permanently. Your contributions will assist us in reaching this goal.

A Gamma Sigma Delta Outstanding Graduate Student Award Selection Committee will organize the application and selection process. Graduate students in Agriculture, Human Sciences, and related sciences who have demonstrated outstanding accomplishment in their teaching, research, or extension endeavors, and great promise for future academic contributions in their field of expertise are eligible.

Please send your donations to the University of Nebraska Foundation at 1010 Lincoln Mall, Suite 300, Lincoln, NE 68508 with the pledge sheet below. The University of Nebraska Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization soliciting tax deductible private contributions for the benefit of the University of Nebraska. For more details regarding the 501(c)(3) status contact the foundation.

Lincoln Office 1010 Lincoln Mall Ste. 300 Lincoln, NE 6508

For more information, call 800-432-3216 or visit our website at www.nufoundation.org

Gamma Sigma Delta Outstanding Graduate Student Award Fund #10996

☐ Enclosed is my check for $_______ payable to the University of Nebraska Foundation.

☐ Please charge $_______ to my: □ VISA □ MasterCard □ Discover □ American Express

______ Card Number ____________________________ Exp. Date ____________________________

☐ I/we pledge $_______ payable over ________ years, beginning _____________ (month/year).

______ Signature (for credit card payment or to establish a pledge) ____________________________ Date ____________

☐ Give online at www.nufoundation.org

Name ____________________________

Address ____________________________

City ____________________________ State ____________ Zip Code ____________

Email ____________________________ Phone ____________________________

☐ My matching gift form is enclosed. If your employer or your spouse’s employer has a matching gift program, your gift could be increased! Contact your employer’s personnel office for information.

☐ I have already included the Foundation in my estate plans through my will, trust or life insurance.

☐ Please send information about making a planned gift. You may call 1-800-432-3216 to speak with a planned giving professional.

Campaign: 1L09 • GSD

If making a gift, please print and mail to:
University of Nebraska Foundation
P.O. Box 82555
Lincoln, NE 68501-2555
October 20, 2018

TO: Gamma Sigma Delta Members

SUBJECT: Renewal of Active Membership / Dues for 2018

If you have not already done so, please renew your membership in Gamma Sigma Delta. Please recall that GSD membership is based on the calendar year and runs from January 1 – December 31. In keeping with tradition, I am sending just this single notification for paying your 2018 dues. We are counting on your continuing support of our honorary society. Please be sure to print off and complete the appropriate form and respond today.

Dues are $20 per year. Please make your check ($20 for 2018, or $20 per year for multiple years) payable to Gamma Sigma Delta (please don’t mail cash) and send it, along with your completed membership form, to me at one of the addresses indicated on the form.

Nebraska Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta members who have paid their dues are listed on the next page year. Those of you who have paid dues in advance please check to see if my extension date is correct for your prepaid dues. If you were an active member in 2017 and your name is not on this list, your membership has expired.

If you wish to be placed on the GSD inactive list, do not send dues but check the appropriate box on the form and return it to me. If I do not hear from you by November 2, 2018, I will remove your name from our mailing list. You can always return to active membership just by sending me your annual dues. Also, if you know of GSD members who have moved to Nebraska, please send me their name(s) and address(es) or have them contact me so they can become active here. We wish to welcome all of you who have recently transferred into our Nebraska Chapter.

Best regards,

Robert J. Wright

Robert J. Wright
Membership Coordinator
Active Members Nebraska Chapter Gamma Sigma Delta

Note Award of Merit recipients and retired members wishing to remain on mailing list do not pay dues. If you have retired and wish to stay on our mailing list, please contact Dennis Brink (dbrink1@unl.edu).

2018 Members

The following are the 2018 members: David J. Aiken; Rebecca A. Bernthal; Allen G. Blezek; Miranda Bright; Dana W. Boden; Archie Clutter; Andrea Cupp; Patricio Grassini; Mariah Hart; Dann E. Husmann; Ronald M. Lewis; Joe Louis; Ashlynn Maier; Anthony McMechan; Jennifer S. Nixon; Jordan Reinders; Sarah A. Schlund; Matthew Spangler; Thomas Weissling; Curtis L. Weller; John Westra; Jennifer R. Wood

2019 Members

The following are the 2019 members thus far: Gary J. Brewer; Loren D. Isom; Jessica L. Peterson; Paul E. Read; Robert J. Wright; Janos Zempleni.

2020 Members

The following are the 2020 members thus far: Michael B. Jacobson; Julie J. Jacobson; Dustin T. Yates.

2021 Members

The following are the 2021 members thus far: Stephen P. Baenziger; Cheryl A. Burkhart-Kriesel; Chris R. Calkins.

2022 Members

The following are the 2022 members thus far: John E. Gilley; Richard Rasby.

2023 Members

The following are the 2023 members thus far: Charles A. Hibberd.

Award of Merit


Retired

I am enclosing $20 as I wish to remain an active member for 2018

Payment in ADVANCE. I am enclosing $________ to extend my active membership _________ years at $20 per year.

I am NOT enclosing a dues payment as I wish to become inactive.

I have RETIRED and wish to remain ON the mailing list

I have RETIRED and wish to be taken OFF the active mailing list.

To save mailing costs, please provide your e-mail address below.

NAME

ADDRESS

ZIP Code

PHONE

E-MAIL

Please return the completed form to:

For On-Campus Mail
Robert J. Wright
GSD Membership Coordinator
Entomology Department
ENTO 103 - 0816

For U.S. Mail
Robert J. Wright
GSD Membership Coordinator
Entomology Department
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln NE 68583-0816
I am pleased to be able to comment on my perspectives on the history of Gamma Sigma Delta at this occasion of the centennial of the Nebraska Chapter. In this short talk I will emphasize the following points.

1. The historical perspective of Gamma Sigma Delta's formation and how it fits in with certain other agricultural organizations.

2. My interpretation of formative events of GSD. I hope as you hear or participate in the initiation ceremony you will see the significance of Gamma Sigma Delta's history.

3. The historical perspective of the Nebraska chapter at this 100th anniversary.

Let's start in 1900. This was a time of great change for agriculture. It was growing up. New disciplines were formed and the Land Grant System had passed through the adolescent phase. Students and faculty in agriculture were seeking recognition for their science, academic abilities, and student quality. If we look at the 1900 Ohio State Yearbook (Makio) literary societies, fraternities, sororities, military units, sports, and some miscellaneous groups comprise the organizations featured. Alpha Zeta is pictured in this 1900 Makio. Alpha Zeta was formed at Ohio State in late 1897, as an agricultural/honorary/social organization. Three house chapters and a number of non-house chapters formed quickly. I was a member of the AZ house chapter at Ohio State in the early 1960s. We will revisit AZ briefly later. Other professional/social organizations (agricultural fraternities) formed at the beginning of the 20th century as well, Alpha Gamma Rho in 1904, FarmHouse in 1905, and Alpha Gamma Sigma a little later in 1923.

Delta Theta Sigma (proto-Gamma Sigma Delta) formed at Ohio State as an agricultural/honorary/social society on Dec 1, 1905. Delta Theta Sigma is pictured here in the 1907 yearbook. Although the members are not identified, this is the first or second class. The charter members would be in this photo. Six other non-house, honorary chapters formed in a few years. Although founded as an honorary, the Ohio State chapter wanted a house like Alpha Zeta.

In 1913, a major chasm developed in Delta Theta Sigma. The Ohio State chapter requested permission to maintain a house. This was denied by the group, but the OSU chapter indicated that they would have one anyway, even though the original constitution forbade it. This resulted in a split in DTS. The non-house chapters withdrew and left OSU chapter standing alone. The Ohio Charter was revoked but it retained the name, Delta Theta Sigma. This may not have been friendly times. A new name was developed for the strictly honorary, non-house chapters. The new name maintained Delta and Sigma, reversed them and added Gamma in front, so the new group was Gamma Sigma Delta. The letters represented Gaea (Goddess of Earth and mother of all), Syndesmos (Bind together), Demeter (Greek Goddess of Agriculture & Fruitfulness). With this in mind, a Missouri member of the new Gamma Sigma Delta came up with a Greek description of the new society: "Binding together of earth, the mother of all, and the practice of agriculture and arts related there to, for the welfare of mankind.” At that time a Greek based description was important for an organization bearing a Greek name to differentiate it from others. Read it carefully and slowly several times.
Although we might word it a bit differently, doesn’t it still describe the holistic agriculture toward which we strive? 1913 was indeed a banner year when our predecessors made a good decision that has served us well for over a century and kept Gamma Sigma Delta true to its original mission.

Delta Theta Sigma went on to form 8 chapters, 6 with houses. Gamma Sigma Delta went on to form over 50 chapters including international chapters and did not have to maintain a major national superstructure, office staff, keep up houses, keep them occupied, enforce social rules, etc. That cannot be done without becoming a social fraternity and losing the honorary mission. More honorary chapters formed after 1913. Incidentally, a new Gamma Sigma Delta chapter wouldn’t be formed at Ohio State University until 1928.

In 1916, people at the University of Minnesota had a good idea and formed THE AGRICULTURAL HONOR SOCIETY OF AMERICA, a duplicate of Gamma Sigma Delta. The two merged in 1917. The merged organization now was named THE HONOR SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURE – GAMMA SIGMA DELTA. It is a very descriptive name and appears right here on the membership pin. Its mission is not confused with other Greek-named organizations. In 1918, the Nebraska Chapter was the first one formed under this new name. The key dates for Gamma Sigma Delta are 1905 (formation of proto-Gamma Sigma Delta), 1913 (the split from the house chapter), 1917 (the merger of the Minnesota organization and Gamma Sigma Delta), and 1918 (the formation of the Nebraska Chapter).

Let me digress for a moment. Alpha Zeta formed only the three house chapters and the rest of the chapters were strictly honorary (no houses) - chapters like the one here at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The AZ non-house chapters worked fine as student-run honorary societies with regular meetings and activities. The house chapters worked well as social fraternities for 80 years or so, but when women entered the agricultural disciplines and were to be recognized for their excellence a house chapter like Ohio State, which was a social fraternity, couldn’t really do it. To make a long story short, the house chapter no longer exists at OSU. Today it is a FarmHouse chapter. Again, the 1913 decision by Gamma Sigma Delta not maintain houses proved critical in the long run. A new Alpha Zeta honorary now is at OSU.

Gamma Sigma Delta’s basic structure was complete by 1917, and it is a lean and flexible organization. The insight by members in 1913 and 1917 set us up nicely. We have is a unique faculty-run honorary, honoring excellence and creating opportunities for fellowship across the broad field of agriculture and related disciplines. Careful thought went into the development of the broad view of agriculture at the formation of Gamma Sigma Delta. It is not an afterthought. The definition of agriculture is broad and is flexible to change as agricultural activities and names change.

The Nebraska Chapter formed in 1918 – 100 years ago. That’s why we are here today. It has been a major organization on our campus. Check the chapter and international websites for history, news, and activities. Like Dennis Brink, I had the privilege of serving as an International Officer from 1984 to 1990. I observed then as now – Nebraska is one of the strong Gamma Sigma Delta chapters. I do not have time to dwell on the extensive history of the Nebraska chapter. If you do not have a copy of the new centennial history of our chapter, pick up one in the back of the room. Look at our involvement historically. For years the chapter honored high achieving students. In 1956, an Award of Merit for an outstanding agriculturalist was added. In 1961, an Outstanding Sophomore Award was added and in 1962, the Outstanding Senior Award was included. The Outstanding Graduate Student Award was developed in 2009. Faculty recognition began with the Teaching Award of Merit in 1963. In 1980, an Extension Award of Merit and a Research Award of Merit were added. The Nebraska chapter’s program has continued to evolve and expand over the years.
Unselfish faculty leadership has been the key to the success of the Nebraska Chapter. Notice the number and diversity of the people who have served as officers. Countless members have participated in committee activity which is essential for chapter function. Thirteen Nebraska Chapter members have served as International officers with Dennis Brink being the latest. Ten people from the Nebraska Chapter have received the International Award for Distinguished Achievement in Agriculture plus three more people who were originally initiated into the Nebraska Chapter but were associated with other chapters. Notice the names of the charter members. The Nebraska Chapter was not started by some small faculty faction. These people were key leaders in the College and University in 1918. Fifteen buildings around campus are named after people who were Gamma Sigma Delta members, a number of them after charter members.

Fellowship is an important aspect that comes naturally among active members of Gamma Sigma Delta which the original founders had in mind. I came to Nebraska in 1970 and have enjoyed the opportunity to interact with students, faculty others across the broad field of agriculture through GSD.

Where does this leave us today? We have the gold standard, faculty-run honorary that recognizes excellence in students, faculty and others in agriculture and related sciences. If students meet the academic standard they receive an invitation to membership. No politics are involved. Gamma Sigma Delta had a bit of a rocky start but has been rather stable for over a hundred years through good times and bad – through World Wars, a Great Depression, a Dust Bowl, and the changing face of agriculture and society. Gamma Sigma Delta recognizes the importance of addressing the breadth of agriculture and related disciplines.

As well-respected, time-honored organization, our mission continues to be to recognize excellence and in doing so, Gamma Sigma Delta provides fellowship which, again, is an important aspect not to be overlooked. Recognition of excellence of achievement in agriculture today is just as important as it was 100 years ago, if not more so. Many other groups recognize excellence in agriculture as well, but few have survived the 100-year test as has Gamma Sigma Delta. Over the years Gamma Sigma Delta has complemented and fits together nicely with the student-run Alpha Zeta chapter.

There are significant challenges ahead such as membership acceptance rate with undergraduate students, not only in the related areas but in the traditional disciplines in agriculture. Faculty involvement may be less of an issue in strong chapters like Nebraska, but it is an area not to be neglected. Gamma Sigma Delta’s strength is in the chapters. If it were to cease to exist, Gamma Sigma Delta would probably cease to function one chapter at a time.

One last thing - continue to send a delegate, preferably 2, (one who never attended) to the Biennial Conclaves. The 2018 Conclave is at Kansas State University which will simplify travel. Meeting with a small group of people who are dedicated to Gamma Sigma Delta will be fun. You will gain new ideas and be able to contribute suggestions from the Nebraska Chapter. I guarantee that you will return with a new and stimulating perspective of Gamma Sigma Delta after viewing it from an international basis. Thank you for the opportunity to talk about one of my favorite subjects.